

DECEMBER

ARCHIVES/COLLECTION MANI-1-2008
624 WASHINGTON AVE
MONTGOMERY AL 36130-0100

ZC School
celebrates
American
Education Week

Elba Tigers win
Thanksgiving
Basketball
Tourney

Santa visits Elba
for annual
Christmas parade

The Elba Clipper

Volume 108, Number 25 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, December 2, 2004 1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Coffee County conducts automatic recount of votes

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Coffee County joined those across the state Monday Nov. 29, when it conducted the automatic recount of votes regarding the Amendment Two issue.

According to law, if a vote

difference is 1/2 of one percent, an automatic recount is forced, and the Amendment Two vote from the Nov. 2nd general election fell into that category.

On Monday, Nov. 29, 10 poll workers gathered around five voting machines (two poll

workers for each machine) at the Coffee County Farm Center and physically fed all ballots cast during the general election through the machines.

Coffee County workers for

probate Judge William Gammill said this was to double check the count. On Tuesday, Gammill said it appears Coffee County's vote was off by about 12 or 13 votes; however, he said this would not be enough to statistically change anything in Coffee County.

The percentage will remain 52% yes and 48% no for Coffee County.

"We had a good recount, and our poll workers did an excellent job," Gammill said.

He said the recount took five working hours which meant the poll workers were feeding approximately 3,500 ballots per hour.

Gammill said the majority of adjustments found during the recount came from absentee ballots which are always more apt to have problems.

Elsie Clark enjoys special family reunion

Mrs. Elsie Clark of Elba has roots far away from Elba, and recently had a chance to celebrate with relatives from her birth place.

Clark, who came to Elba in 1944 from New Zealand, hasn't returned to her origins home during all those 60 years - nor seen any of her New Zealand family members - until this past November 21st when two relatives came to America to visit her and her American family.

Her nephew and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Anderson, spent a joyous three days with Elsie and

her husband James Clark. Also joining them was the Clark's daughter, Chery Clark Kent and most of their children and other family members. Son Richard was unable to join them during the reunion, due to his conflicting work schedules.

She recalls being close to her sister, Barry's mother, and dragging the little Barry around with her as a toddler. He was about six when she left for America.

The Andersons had been to England to visit with their son and had spent some time in Orlando, FL before visiting with Clark's son back "down under".

Along with children, cousins, and the Andersons, Mrs. Clark said "we had the best time."

She has two more nephews in New Zealand but no other close living relatives.

REMINDER:

Don't forget to read
Chapter Three of
"Carols for Christmas"

It's on Page 13 in this week's
edition of The Elba Clipper!

Several awards presented during 2004 Farm City Week banquet

The annual Coffee County Farm City Awards banquet was held Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Farm Center in New Brockton with persons from both the agricultural and industrial work forces being honored.

The J.A. Wise & Son Farms Inc. received the honor of being named Coffee County's 2004 Farm of Distinction. This farm and ranch is located and headquartered on Alabama Highway 87 just inside the Coffee County line south of Sappington and north of Elba.

James Wise serves as president of the corporation with J. Allen Wise as vice president and Joyce F. Wise as secretary treasurer.

The farm consists of 3,500 acres of farm, row crop, timber and pastureland. It has 500 commercial cows of mostly Limousin breeding; 600 acres of cotton; 200 acres of soybeans; and 200 acres of peanuts. The corporation also owns a tractor

Ranch operation has always been a place all of the Wiregrass area could look at with pride and admiration. The family works hard to not only be profitable but also to keep their place nice and be good stewards of the land they have worked so hard to obtain.

Another big award for the evening was Business of the Year which went to Cook Chevrolet/Cook Ford of Elba.

Cook Chevrolet of Elba opened in 1967 after General Motors approved Drexel Cook as a Chevrolet dealer. Prior to this Elba had been without a franchised car dealer for many years.

Drexel's son, Jimmy, was approved as a Chevrolet dealer in 1983, and he bought the business from his father. In 1997, he was approved as a Ford Motor Company dealer and purchased the Ford dealership in Elba.

Elba Chamber of Commerce director Kaye Whirworth presents the Business of the Year award to Joey Daniels and Larry Weeks, employees of Cook Chevrolet/Ford.

Alma Lane Wise; Amy, Chip, Cristy Allen (Allee) and Catherine Maddox Coble.

Jimmy currently owns and operates both franchises.

Cook Chevrolet and Cook

Ford together employ roughly 30 people and have annual gross sales of 20 to 25 million dollars.

Other major awards presented during the banquet included livestock production (three farms honored); broiler of the year; pullet grower of the year; hen grower of the year; two peanut awards; a cotton award; outstanding conservation farmer; a forestry award and industry of the year. Pictures of these award winners can be found on Pages 2 and 14.

Farm City Week is observed annually in Coffee County. It is designed to encourage an enlightened understanding between rural and urban residents.

The James Wise Family accepts the 2004 Farm of Distinction award which was presented to J.A. Wise and Sons Inc. for 2004. Family members include James and Joyce Wise; Allen, Mary Ashley, John

Allen and Olivia Lane Wise; Amy, Chip, Cristy Allen (Allee) and Catherine Maddox Coble.

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THE COFFEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE will host a Tasting Tea and Recipe and Nature Craft Contest, sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System on Monday, Dec. 6, 6-8 p.m., in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton. The public is invited to attend the Tasting Tea to taste all the different recipes entered in the recipe contest. There will be a small admission fee. For more information regarding contest deadlines, contact the Coffee County Extension office at (334) 844-5596.

THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE RIVER AND YELLOW RIVERS Clean Water Partnership Steering Committee and the Choctawhatchee River Basin Committee will meet jointly Thursday, Dec. 9, from 2-4 p.m., at the Coffee County Farm Center, located on Highway 84 in New Brockton, Ala. The Watershed Management Plan that is being developed for these basins will be discussed at this meeting. Anyone interested in the future of the watershed is invited to come.

THE ELBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will host a Sweet Sensations Christmas Bake-Off and Tasting Tea Sunday, Dec. 12.

Categories of entry will be cakes, pies, candies and cookies. A

winner will be named in each category as well as an overall winner.

Entry form can be picked up at the Elba Chamber office, and the deadline to enter will be Monday, Dec. 8 (there will be a small entry fee). Judging for the bake-off will be held Saturday, Dec. 11. The Chamber's Tasting Tea will be Sunday, Dec. 12, from 11:30-3:30 p.m., where everyone will have an opportunity to taste all the winning desserts along with a lot of other goodies and door prizes. Tickets for the open house can be purchased at the Elba Chamber of Commerce office, Bradley's Florist, Tanglewood and Threelock and at the Elba Christmas Festival.

THE 2004 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS continue Friday, Dec. 3, with semi-final action. The Brundidge Bulldogs will travel to Marengo County to battle the Sweet Water Bulldogs. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

Dan Rather is stepping down from his anchor position with CBS News. While he and the network people will swear this is not related to the George W. Bush National Guard record happenings, many of us will openly snicker at the denial. You will recall 60 Minutes Wednesday was reportedly given faked documents on President Bush's National Guard service and Rather reported them as real, and continued to stand by their account for some time after the facts were pointed out to them and to the world. We predicted right here in this column at the time that heads would roll at CBS News, once the dust had settled... now it is happening. Each of us in this business need to remain keenly aware that we are not larger than life itself and our personal opinions need to be clearly marked as "opinion".

The case of the pro basketball player climbing into the stands after a game is tragic. While all the players involved have been punished, and justly so, something also needs to be done about fans who actually throw things at players for the opposing team. In this case we have read that the accused offending fan has a police record for not being nice. If fans continue to get more violent with their actions, and more and more violence is allowed by team members, both on and off the court or playing field, we may see screens between the games and the fans. Or worse, unbreakable glass. Then security guards can try to control the fans while game officials and coaches monitor the actions of the wayward players.

The National Guard troops from Elba who were recently activated should get to spend Christmas at home after all. Originally we understood they would be deployed to Iraq before then but last week were told it would be later and hopefully they would be home for the Christmas holidays. On their behalf, we encourage our readers to pray for their safety and the continued safety of those already deployed world freedom in the battle zones.

The recent on Amendment #2 began Monday of this week. Of course in Coffee County, it was also over on Monday. The end results was about 12 additional votes, mostly yes votes. Coffee County was one of the few counties in which the Amendment carried originally. Judge Bill Gammon explained the extra votes as those which were either marked with an unapproved marker, marked outside the block or for some other reason the machine wouldn't pick it up on the counter. However they were caught on the manual part of the recount. Now we will see what happens statewide. As most of us predicted early on, the national headlines read that Alabama voters refused to remove old segregation wording from the constitution. We saw it again in one of the big nation-

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Nov. 22, 2004, investigated the following incidents: one criminal mischief, one assault, one theft of property, one receiving stolen property, two for possession of marijuana, two for possession of drug paraphernalia, two for possession of a controlled substance, two family disputes, one domestic violence, one suspicious activity and one harassment.

The following arrests were made: two for failure to appear, one for possession of marijuana, three for driving under the influence, two for possession of a controlled substance, one for domestic violence, one for drug paraphernalia and one for public intoxication. Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for a suspended driver's license, two for speeding and one for driving without first obtaining a driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, NOV. 22 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to the Troy Hwy. across from Clark Furniture store (4:35 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported on Jackson St. (6:59 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 1550 Rees Ave. (7:11 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 1109 Neil Grantham Dr. (10:18 p.m.).

TUESDAY, NOV. 23 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1403 Smith Ave. (4:21 a.m.); Routine activity.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24 - River stage - 7.18 feet (6:04 a.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to the Shell Station for a

dumpster fire (7:00 a.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported near 871 Cedar Lane Dr. (11:58 p.m.).

THURSDAY, NOV. 25 - Fight reported in the area of Adision St. and Claxton Ave. (7:09 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 1550 Rees Ave. (7:11 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 1109 Neil Grantham Dr. (10:18 p.m.).

FRIDAY, NOV. 26 - River stage - 9.95 feet (7:00 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a wreck on Hwy. 134 at Imo Baptist Church (7:42 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported on Jackson St. (6:59 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 1716 Martin Luther King Dr. (10:23 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported on Hwy. 84 E. near County Rd. 502 (10:37 p.m.).

SATURDAY, NOV. 27 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to Putnam St. (6:56 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 279 County Rd. 355 (7:08 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1026 Teresa St. (8:27 a.m.).

SUNDAY, NOV. 28 - River stage - 10.35 feet (7:00 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 617 Mullins Apts. (8:11 a.m.).

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CHURCH & AREA NEWS

PASTOR'S CORNER

**Rev. Stanley Carter, Pastor
Elba United Methodist Church**

The Mustard Seed Foundation to have Singing & Worship Service every Saturday Night

The Mustard Seed Foundation is having a singing & worship service every Saturday night beginning at 7:00.

Faith Assembly of God plan revival services for December 5-8

There will be a revival service at Faith Assembly of God Church, Sunday December 5th through Wednesday, December 8th. The service on Sunday will be at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Wednesday will be at 6:30 p.m. The church is located at 499 Meredith Street, Enterprise, AL. For more information call 393-6620 or 894-6371.

Nothing can overcome the light of the world. Nothing can overcome Jesus. Nothing can separate us from God's love and light in Jesus Christ. Let us seek the Christ Child this wonderful Christmas season. Let us follow the light of the star to Bethlehem and find the light that can dispel the darkness inside our lives. Let us find in the manager the light that can illuminate our world with peace and love.

The carol writer wrote, "What child is this who laid to rest in Mary's lap is sleeping?" This child is the light of the world and the light of our lives. "Glory to God in the Highest."

Let us continue to pray for our men and women in the military.

NEWS AMONG OUR SERVICE FOLKS

ZACH PRAYTOR



Zach Praytor

Army Private Zach Praytor has graduated from basic military training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. During the six weeks of training, the soldiers studied the Army mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

Zach is the son of Edward Praytor and Diane Stapleton of Elba, Ala. In 2004, he graduated from Elba High School. After Basic he moved on to Fort Eustis, Virginia for AIT.

ELBA HOUSING AUTHORITY

now accepting applications for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

All interested parties apply at
THE ELBA HOUSING AUTHORITY OFFICE
located at 1130 Deal Street, Elba, Alabama.
Phone 897-2737

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH

SAMSON, ALA.
Richard Thorn, Sr. Pastor
Meeting Times: 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Service: 7:00 p.m.

ALEXANDER BAPTIST CHURCH

TIN GUNNELL, Minister
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service: 7:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ron Stullard, Pastor
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

Rev. David Tadlock
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Edd Phillips-Cope, Pastor
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Darryl Caldwell, Pastor
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Class: 6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Tom Sean, Pastor
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Service: 7:00 p.m.

ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Stanley Carter, Pastor
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Lavel Martin, Pastor
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Roger Miller
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

H. Hill, Minister
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Martha Baxter
Church Services: 9:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

CHRISTIAN GROVE METHODIST

Rev. Martha Baxter
Church Services: 9:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Lavel Martin, Pastor
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

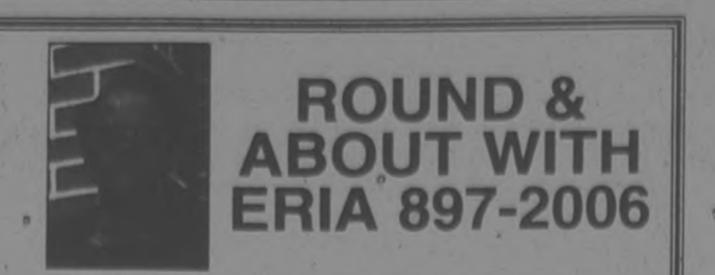
ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Stanley Carter, Pastor
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Even Service: 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by:
SouthTrust Bank & The Elba Clipper

The Mustard Seed Foundation to have Singing & Worship Service every Saturday Night

The Mustard Seed Foundation is having a singing & worship service every Saturday night beginning at 7:00.



SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:1-8

***THINKING OF YOU:
PRAYING FOR YOU:
Keyes-North Carolina: Lance Cross-Auburn, Ala.; Clayton Gandy, Mary C. and Tasia Belcher-Gant; Cassandra & Quincy Green-Montgomery; Derrell Belcher-Auburn; Melvin, Catherine & Lanchessica Cross-Catheray, Tytania and Calvin Carpenter, David Carpenter, John Nelson, Christiana, Nick and Isaac, Jonathon Lockeith, R.C. and Anne Pearl Carpenter, all of Elba.

***DECEMBER BIRTH-DAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Janes Broxton-Dec. 1
Marie L. Daniels-Dec. 1
Barry, Ashley and Judson Vaughn.

Following the program will be a Christmas fellowship meal.

Dr. Tony Dye, Pastor, and congregation invite everyone to attend.

For more information call Renita Bowers at 347-1211 ext. 2280.

Be careful for nothing: But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Family and friends gathered at the home of R.C. and Anna Pearl Carpenter in Elba Thanksgiving Day, November 24, to share food and have fun for the Thanksgiving Day.

Those attending the occasion were Eddie, Adeline & Debbie Blakely, Logan Alexander & Robert Carpenter, John Chantel, Sheila Kennedy and Kayla Oifield all of Elba; Justice Asheley and "Cubby" Curtis Orlando, FL; Jackie Dunn, Dimitri Crittenden, John D. Tweedy, Georgia, Juan & Layla Carpenter-Montgomery; John Carpenter-California; Jordan Carpenter-Dothan; Terri Nelson-Opp., Rev. L.A. Williams, Mae Doris, and Hillery-Troy, Renica, Garrett Andalusia; Robert Prior & Janice Hampton - Virginia; Brittaney Daniels and Xavier

known for saying "Safe Thus Far", "What a Joyful Morning", and "When the Savior Wipes the Tears From Our Eyes". Jack Assembly of God is located on County Road 208 in the Jack Community. Everyone is invited to attend.

St. Luke United Methodist Church to present 12th annual Drive-Through Live Nativity

St. Luke United Methodist Church in Enterprise invites everyone to their 12th Annual Drive-Through Live Nativity. The nine scene event will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

St. Luke United Methodist is located on Heath Street near Enterprise High School.

The nine scenes depicting Jesus' birth and the events surrounding it are viewed from cars driving through the church parking lot. Each scene has biblical characters in costume, with scenery and live animals.

This colorful Easter tradition goes back in time, on a journey past Caesar's Castle, shepherds keeping watch over their sheep, the Inn at Bethlehem as well as scenes of weary travelers and joyful angels. The journey finally arrives at the manager scene with Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus.

The Nativity is a gift from St. Luke United Methodist to the community. Everyone is invited to come and share in this celebration of Christmas.

Today is a good day! Be grateful

Erica

***ALLEN J. BELCHER - 2004 was presented a Certificate of Recognition for 15 years of dedicated service at Pilgrim's Pride, Enterprise, Ala. Thank you for your dedication and commitment. Allen is the son of Era Belcher and the late Grover Belcher. Allen's son, D.J. resides in Montgomery and is on the Montgomery Police Force.

Today is a good day! Be grateful

Erica

May God Bless Our Service Folks Everywhere.

Scenes and live animals.

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CLASSIFIEDS

The Elba Clipper

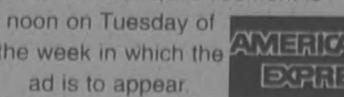
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SPORTS

Views From.... THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Last weekend was the time to start decorating the house for the holidays, but when we headed out to the garage to bring in the boxes filled with ornaments, lights and the other decorations, we found very few of the boxes we were hunting and had to sit down and scratch our heads in an effort to remember just where we put all the boxes when we put them up last winter. We finally found the boxes and got the tree up right on time, but the holiday season didn't get off to a very smooth start.

ELBA TIGERS WIN THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT

The Elba Tigers competed in the Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Invitational basketball tournament last week at New Brockton and claimed three wins to bring home the tournament championship. The Tigers pulled ahead early and held on late to escape with an opening round win over Kinston, then survived a triple-overtime thriller against Highland Home to get past the semifinals and in the finals surprised pre-tourney favorite Headland to claim the championship trophy. This year's version of the Tigers are blessed with quickness all over the court and for the first time in years the team actually looks to run and has the green light to shoot from behind the arc whenever the opportunity arises. While the Tigers may not have the size to dominate on the boards, their quickness and aggressive style of play did make up for their lack of size. This is the key to all three wins. Elba did commit many turnovers in all three games as they tried to settle into the new fast-paced attack, but the biggest weakness was at the free-throw line, where the Tigers hit only 48 of 103 free throws in the three games combined. Elba hit a miserable 6 of 21 attempts in their win over Kinston, connected on only 24 of 52 opportunities in the triple-overtime win over Highland Home and made only 18 of 30 in the win over Headland. The Tigers will no doubt get to the free-throw line more than ever this season with their style of play. However, unless they can convert from the line they may struggle to win against some teams they should handle easily. Oh well, a 3-0 start and a tournament championship ain't a bad way to open the season.

COUNTY PREP TEAMS GIVE FANS A PREVIEW

Last week's basketball tournament over in New Brockton gave all area fans an early chance to see their teams in action and also gave them a preview of things to come. Here is a quick look back at what they saw...

NEW BROCKTON - The Gamecocks struggled in their season opener under new coach Glen Johnson and fell to cross-county rival Zion Chapel. New Brockton has a good mixture of size and quickness, and also has some good outside shooters. However, the lack of experience hurt the Gamecocks in their opening loss and could be a problem once they players begin to gel and gain some on the court playing time. The Lady Gamecocks would have lost two in their three games, but showed that a team that would never stop fighting and would never throw in the towel. New Brockton's girls aren't blessed with many good outside shooters. However, their quickness and desire to win should be enough to help them to a winning season.

ZION CHAPEL - The Rebels won one and lost two in the tournament and made it clear that they are a team to watch this season. Zion Chapel has a team loaded with experience, and while the players have never won big on the court, they have played hard for years and are convinced they are ready to win. If the Rebels can find an inside game they could very well be the surprise team in the county. The Lady Rebels dropped their opener to New Brockton, but showed promise in many areas and should get their share of wins as the season rolls along. Zion Chapel's girls play hard every minute and have more talent in years past, and that combination should help the Lady Rebels surprise some folks along the way.

KINSTON - The Bulldogs lost in their tourney opener to eventual champ Elba to fall to 1-1 on the season. However, the Bulldogs never quit battling and made the Tigers play until the final hour to claim the win. Kinston may not have the best players around and may not be as talented as in years past, but the Bulldogs play hard to win. They'll still do whatever it takes to win in the tourney, but I did see them play in their season opener and they too should get some wins as they settle down. Kinston's girls have experience and as much talent as many teams in the area, and once they get a few wins under their belts should be a team to watch.

BRANTLEY BULLDOGS MOVE ON TO SEMIFINALS

The Brantley Bulldogs gained a measure of revenge last week for last year's one point loss to American Christian by knocking off the Patriots 17-16, in the third round of the state high school football playoffs. Brantley and American Christian both missed numerous chances to score points throughout the game, but in the end it was the Bulldogs that scored last and then added the extra-point to escape with the win. Coach David Lowery and his troops are now 25-1 in their last 26 games, and a win this week will put the Bulldogs back in the "Super Six" in Birmingham. Another long road trip will no doubt take its toll on the Dogs and the competition will be stiff. However, this team has found a way to win all season long and won't back away from a challenge now.

HIGH SCHOOL PLAYOFFS ENTER SEMIFINAL ROUND

The high school football season enters the semifinal round this week and that means there are only four teams left in all six classes. Here is a look back at how that number advanced into week four:

action...

***** CLASS 6A** - Carver of Montgomery moved into the semifinals for the first time ever with a 29-14 win over Vigor, and Coach Larry Ware has to be the hottest coaching prospect in the state after turning the Wolverines into a state power in only three years. The turnaround at Carver is nothing short of remarkable.

***** CLASS 5A** - Stanhope Elmore kept its state title hopes alive with a 16-15 win over Williamson, of Mobile, and it looks like the Mustangs may be nearing the end of this year's ride. The Mustangs have been one of the top teams in the 5A circles throughout the year and have had a season to brag about. However, last week's close call may mean Stanhope will no longer be the dominant of the SEC this season, but the Tigers have already found out how to win and may be the surprise team.

***** CLASS 4A** - Demopolis made the trip to Montgomery to battle the defending state champion and left with a win, a 46-7 win. The Tigers from West Alabama have taken no prisoners all season long in rolling to 13 straight wins, and last week's win over top-ranked Trinity made it clear the Tigers are for real. This week the Tigers will go up against another state power when they head down to Mobile to meet UMS Wright, which pounded previously undefeated Elmore County 45-13. What a game!

***** CLASS 3A** - T.R. Miller continued its trek toward another state title by knocking off previously unbeaten Midfield 28-14, while defending state champ Pike County fell short and lost to last year's state runner-up Oneonta 18-13. The Bulldogs of Coach Wayne Grant were expected to take their lumps this season after losing almost its entire team to graduation, but Coach Grant taught his team how to win and set the stage for more winning to come.

POLISH PROGNOSTICATOR PLODS ALONG...

The Elba Tigers, of Foley, Prognosticator, stopped by over the weekend and laughed that our prediction that was almost always a sure bet was that bad weather would roll into Elba the weekend of the annual Christmas Festival. The local guesser said he didn't get wet, which means he came out a lot better than hundreds that got soaked by the afternoon storm. Anyway, the guesser did hit on 10 of his 12 play-off picks, last week to up his season totals to 258-54, and left this week's picks.

BRANTLEY VS. SWEET WATER

The Bulldogs from up across the river will need some sweet water Friday night after their long hike over to West Alabama and should find plenty as they get close to the dog pound that has four state championship rings hanging up along its walls. If the Dogs are still happy over last week's win the season could end on a sour note, but the guess here is that it will be another sweet win for the Crimson County canines.

BRANTLEY 27 SWEET WATER 26

OTHER PICKS:

Prattville 17 Carver 8

Hoover 24 Mt. Brook 7

Homewood 21 Stanhope Elmore 10

Russellville 17 Athens 0

Demopolis 20 UMS-Wright 21

Deshler 21 Alexandria 14

T.R. Miller 24 Oneonta 14

Winfield 15 Hokes Bluff 13

Leroy 10 Cottonwood 8

Clay County 21 Woodland 0

Hubard/Courtland 29 Wedadley 24

Elba's Lyndsay Lawford named to "Super 12" volleyball squad

The Dothan Eagle announced its annual "Super 12" high school volleyball team for the week. Lyndsay Lawford of Elba was named to the All-American list.

Lawford, a senior, recorded 129 kills, .55 aces and 39 assists to help guide Elba to a 16-12 record, the area championship and a berth in the region tournament.

Kinston's Mandi Loupe was named the "Player of the Year" in the small school division, while Lady Bulldog coach Jamie Wiggins was named "Coach of the Year" and teammate Kaleigh Sanders was also named to the honored list. Loupe, a senior, recorded 236 kills and 60 aces to help lead the Lady Bulldogs to the state tournament, while Sanders recorded 154 kills, 75 digs and 62 aces. Wiggins, in her fifth year at the helm at Kinston, guided her team to a 31-15 record, despite having only two seniors on the squad.

The complete "Super 12" list in the small school division included: Mandi Loupe, Enterprise; Alison Jennings, Enterprise; Mandy Love, Enterprise; Samantha Hicks, Dothan; Courtney Cooper, Dothan; Jenecae Porter, Eufaula; Tabitha Jenkins, Geneva; Christy Davis, Geneva; Zannie Wilson, Daleville; Keishia Williams, Ashford; LaRonda Wilson, Ashford; Kelly Gibson, Rehobeth; and Monica Bowden, Dale County. The "Coach of the Year" was Rita Tanner, of Enterprise.

A.H.S.A.A. FOOTBALL PLAYOFF REPORT

QUARTERFINAL RESULTS

CLASS 6A

Carver 29 Vigor 14

Prattville 28 Daphne 0

Mt. Brook 31 Tuscaloosa Co. 21

Hoover 24 Spain Park 7

St. Al 23 16 Williamson 15

Albion 23 Fairfield 19

Russellville 28 Buckhorn 21

CLASS 4A

UMS-Wright 45 Elmore Co. 13

Demopolis 46 Trinity 7

Alexandria 43 Hamilton 14

Deshler 31 Moody 0

CLASS 3A

T.R. Miller 28 Midfield 14

Oneonta 18 Pike Co. 13

Winfield 28 Rogers 0

Hokes Bluff 17 Litchfield 7

CLASS 2A

Cottonwood 27 Red Level 18

Leroy 17 Sou. Choctaw 0

Clay Co. 27 Lineville 0

Woodland 36 Red Bay 14

CLASS 1A

Sweet Water 35 Loachapoka 7

Brantley 17 Am. Christian 16

Wadley 20 South Lamar 18

Courtland 41 Cedar Bluff 12

SEMINAL MATCH-UPS

CLASS 6A

Carver (9-4) at Prattville (12-0)

Mt. Brook (10-3) at Hoover (13-0)

CLASS 5A

St. Al (11-1) at Homewood (12-1)

Athens (8-5) at Russellville (12-1)

CLASS 4A

Deshler (13-0) at UMS-Wright (13-0)

T.R. Miller (13-0) at Alexandria (11-2)

CLASS 3A

Oneonta (13-0) at T.R. Miller (13-0)

Winfield (13-0) at Hokes Bluff (10-3)

CLASS 2A

Cottonwood (9-4) at Leroy (12-1)

Woodland (10-3) at Clay Co. (12-1)

CLASS 1A

Brantley (13-0) at Sweet Water (11-2)

Courtland (13-0) at Wadley (13-0)

ELBA'S LYNDAY LAWFORD NAMED SUPER 12.... Elba Lady Tiger volleyball player Lyndsay Lawford was selected last weekend to the 2004 "Super 12" high school volleyball team by The Dothan Eagle.

Lawford, a senior, helped lead the Lady Tigers to the area championship and a berth in the region tournament.

(Photo by John Wallace, Andalusia Star/News)

Hunting Spotlight...



Cheyenne Nelson bagged this 110 lb. spike Sunday, Nov. 28.

SPORTS

Open season with three wins

Elba Tigers win Thanksgiving tournament title

The Elba Tigers competed in the Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Invitational basketball tournament last week at New Brockton High School and claimed three wins from three outings to bring home the championship trophy.

"The Elba school officials at both South Carolina and Clemson were to be commended for their decisions not to allow their football teams to participate in bowl games after their season-ending break."

"The Elba Tigers opened the fourth quarter with a 7-2 run and outscored the Tigers 15-4 over the opening four minutes of the quarter to move ahead 33-27 with 4:26 left on the clock. A short jumper by Andrew Stoudemire with 4:09 left in the stanza ended the Squadron run and Keith Tew and closed to within 60-53 with 1:21 left on the clock.

Ron Hill hit a free-throw with 1:14 left and got the lead with 5:23 remaining on a three-pointer by Mason Guiley and it appeared the Tigers were in command. However, the Flying Squadron staged the final rally of the stanza and outscored the Elba team with 8-1 over the final five minutes to cut the lead to 23-18 by the end of the half.

Highland Home continued its rally in the third quarter and outscored the Tigers 15-4 over the opening four minutes of the quarter to move ahead 33-27 with 4:26 left on the clock. A short jumper by Andrew Stoudemire with 4:09 left in the stanza ended the Squadron run and Keith Tew and closed to within 60-53 with 1:21 left on the clock.

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SPORTS

Dfeat New Brockton in opener

Zion Chapel Rebels fall in consolation game

The Zion Chapel Rebels competed last week in the Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Invitational basketball tournament and claimed one win in three games to place fourth in the eight-team event.

Following are highlights of the Rebels' tournament action:

Lady Gamecocks fall in consolation game at Thanksgiving tournament

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks helped host the Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Invitational basketball tournament last week at New Brockton High School and claimed one win in three outings to claim fourth place in the eight-team event.

Following are highlights of last week's tournament action:

NEW BROCKTON 40

ZION CHAPEL 29

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks opened the tournament on Tuesday night and posted an exciting 40-29 win over the Zion Chapel Lady Rebels.

The two cross-county rivals swapped baskets for much of the opening stanza as the Lady Gamecocks scored late to take the lead. New Brockton opened the second quarter with a 7-3 run to open up a 24-16 lead, but later took advantage of scoring drought by the Lady Rebels to move ahead 29-16. Zion Chapel's Head Coach Reeves drained a long three-pointer at the beginning of the third. New Brockton lead to 29-19 at the half, but the Lady Gamecocks regained command early in the third quarter and used baskets by Marissa Loman and Amber Adams to move ahead 33-19. The lady Rebels' Keri Hobbs nailed a three-pointer to help Zion Chapel pull within 35-24 with 5:38 remaining in the game and later connected again from behind the arc to cut the New Brockton lead to 37-29. However, the Lady Rebels would get no closer as New Brockton held on and posted the 40-29 win.

Marissa Loman scored 14 points to lead New Brockton, while Brittany Brantley added 8 and Valarie Hutcherson and Amber Adams both scored 7 points. Keri Hobbs scored 10 points to lead Zion Chapel and Inessa Wambles added 6.

N.B. (40): Eaton 2, Hutcherson 7, Loman 14, Brantley 8, Adams 7, Grimes 2.

Z.C. (29): Wambles 6, Taylor 3, Hobbs 10, Lewis 2, McLendon 2, Parrish 3, Reeves 3.

ASHFORD 49

NEW BROCKTON 34

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks fell behind early and saw a late rally fall short as they lost to the Ashford Lady Jackets 49-34. Friday night was another.

The Lady Gamecocks had problems finding their way to the basket early in the game, but the same could not be said for Ashford as the Lady Jackets converted on numerous fast-break opportunities and by the end of the first half owned a big 32-9 advantage. New Brockton began to settle down in the third quarter and outscored Ashford in both the third and fourth quarters, but it was too little, too late, as the Lady Jackets easily held on to claim the 49-34 win.

Sheri Eaton scored 13 points to lead New Brockton, while Valarie Hutcherson added 7. Bethany Hornsby scored 18 points to lead Ashford.

Ashford (49): Brooks 6, Hornsby 18, Wilson 2, Marshall 2, Williams 11, Ward 8, Griggs 2.

N.B. (34): Eaton 13, Hutcherson 7, Hall 2, Brantley 6, Loman 6.

OPP 55

N.B. 40

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks saw a furious fourth quarter rally fall short as they lost to the Opp Lady Bobcats 55-40, Saturday afternoon in the consolation game.

The two teams battled on even terms for much of the opening stanza before Opp pulled ahead to grab a 12-9 lead, while in the second quarter the Lady Bobcats began to take charge and at half-time Opp owned a 28-18 advantage. The Lady Bobcats came out on fire in the third quarter and outscored the Lady Gamecocks 20-4 to open up a big 48-22 lead, and while the Lady Gamecocks did rally in the did little but change the score as Opp held on and claimed the 55-40 win.

Marissa Loman scored 14 points and Yameka Hall added 11 to lead New Brockton, while Kiara Henderson scored 17 points and Yasha Musgrave added 16.

Opp (55): Mack 8, Henderson 17, Stephens 6, Foster 2, Rhymes 3, Musgrave 16, Ellison 1.

N.B. (40): Eaton 2, Hutcherson 5, Hall 11, Brantley 8, Logan 14.

LATE REGISTRATION UNDERWAY FOR YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUES IN ELBA LEAGUES FOR BOYS AGES 4-14 AND GIRLS AGES 4-12 SIGN UP TODAY TEAMS ARE FORMING CALL: ELBA PARKS & RECREATION 897-6833

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SPORTS

SPORTS

Head into semifinals with 13-0 record

Payback is sweet as Brantley Bulldogs oust Patriots 17-16

By Greg Brunson
Photos by Mike Capps

13-0!!!

Alabama has no shortage of farm ponds. Within a few miles of virtually every one of us is a pond teeming with bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish. A large number of these ponds were constructed with the primary purpose of creating a watering source for livestock.

Most of us select the ponds we fish based on the recommendation of our friends or our own past personal experience with a particular pond. But what if you are visiting in an area where you have no fishing contacts and have to "wing it" on your own?

There are several factors to consider when evaluating a pond for its "fishability" so to speak. The first thing to try to decide on is if the pond was built for agricultural purposes only. If the pond was built for livestock watering and/or irrigation, it may have been stocked but never limed or fertilized.

Fishing in a pond built strictly for agricultural purposes will, in most cases, not be as productive as one that was constructed specifically for recreation. Ponds built for recreation are much more likely to be under a management plan where they are lined, fertilized, and properly stocked. However, some pond owners who built their pond for agricultural purposes also do an excellent job of managing it for recreation we well.

Analyzing the drainage area from where a pond receives its water can provide information on how good the fishing will be. If the drainage area above a pond is used for cultivation, the pond may have received a lot of silt over the years. Water level and water table are obviously low; it has an inadequate water source. On the other hand, if the drainage area is too large, excessive flow can bring in too much silt also. As a rule, a pond with a drainage area in grass or timber is a healthier pond than one surrounded by cultivated land.

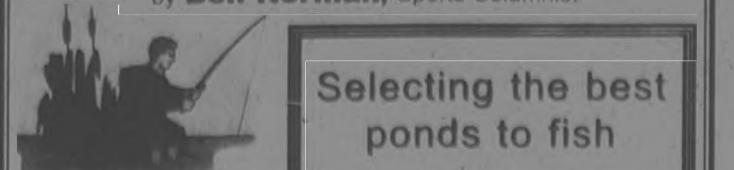
If the pond is the only water source for a large herd of cows, and the pond is relatively small, it usually won't be as good as if cows were not using it. Ponds that are used as a water source for irrigation will not be affected if the water draw is properly regulated, but drawing off a lot of water fast can give fish the lockjaw.

Determining fishing pressure on a pond can help one decide if they want to fish a particular pond. Ponds should be harvested according to the recommendations of a professional biologist. A rough rule of thumb is that a pond can withstand a harvest of 50 pounds of fish per acre per year, with most of this number being panfish.

These are just a few things to consider when selecting a new pond to fish. But remember, the fish haven't read this column, and they may just be exactly where they are not supposed to be!

Let's Go... Outdoors with Ben

by Ben Norman, Sports Columnist



Selecting the best ponds to fish

plays of the game to help Brantley move to a first down at the American Christian 30-yardline, but the Patriot defense stiffened with their backs to their own goalline and four plays later moved back to the 17-yardline.

At the American Christian 15-yardline, the Patriots offense came to life after the turnover and marched 83 yards in seven plays on the strength of four Chris Smalley completions. Jordan Hastings scored the touchdown on a 2-yard plunge in the first play of the second quarter, and Jeff Ogren added the extra-point as American Christian moved on top 7-3.

Brantley's Devaris Skanes returned the ensuing kickoff 45 yards to set the Bulldogs up at their own 47-yardline, and nine running plays later the "Dogs were faced with a fourth down and eight at the American Christian 9-yardline. Brantley returned to the air on the crucial fourth down play, but again failed to find the endzone as the Patriot defense backed the threat with a pass interception at the one-yardline.

The Bulldog defense refused to let the Patriots out of the hole and forced a punt, and Brantley's Antwuan Foster fielded the punt at the Patriot 46-yardline, got a crushing block from Lance Myers at the 45 and raced down the sidelines for a touchdown. Marcus Owens kicked the extra-point and with 4:07 remaining in the second quarter the Bulldogs were back on top 10-7.

Brantley lost a fumble at the American Christian 35-yardline on its first possession of the second half and the Patriots wasted little time regaining the lead as they turned the turnover into points by driving 65 yards in 10 plays. Jordan Hastings scored his second touchdown of the game on a 1-yard run with 6:38 remaining in the third quarter, and although the Bulldogs were still trailing, the Patriots moved on to the 17-16 win.

American Christian got one final chance to pull out the win when it received possession at its own 44-yardline, and this time the Patriots moved the chains once to cross the midfield stripe, only to see a penalty flag for intentional grounding and an aggressive Bulldog defense combine to put an end to the drive.

American Christian got one final chance to pull out the win when it received possession at its own 44-yardline, and this time the Patriots moved the chains once to cross the midfield stripe, only to see a penalty flag for intentional grounding and an aggressive Bulldog defense combine to put an end to the drive.

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